

Barnard Castle
Rural District
Council

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer
of Health

For the Year
1952



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BARNARD CASTLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer
of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1952

Health Department,
43, Galgate,
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Vane and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1952.

Although no new schemes were completed during the year, work was commenced on the new scheme for augmenting the Cockfield water supply and good progress was made. On the debit side it must be recorded that again no further progress was made towards the provision of a water supply to the Eggleston and Bildershaw areas, although I appreciate that the Council are fully aware of the need for these measures.

I am pleased to report a considerable fall in the death-rate for the year, this being the lowest for at least ten years. In addition there was a fall in the number of infant deaths (6 compared with 9 in 1950 and 1951). There was no marked change in the incidence of infectious diseases and there were again no cases of diphtheria notified.

As in past years I am indebted to the Council and to my fellow officials for their help and co-operation in matters relating to my department.

I am, Miss Vane and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Academic Lond.),

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN GEORGE MIDDLETON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

J. LAWRENCE KEEL, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Public Health Department:

JOE HODGSON.

General Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)—110,118.

Rateable Value at 1-4-53—£72,730.

Registrar General's estimate of Home Population, mid-year 1952—18,150.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£260 8s. 6d.

The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining and stone quarrying.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE-BIRTHS.	Legitimate )	(	132	124
	)	262	(
	Illegitimate )	(	4	2

LIVE-BIRTH RATE—14.4 per 1,000 home population.

Corresponding rate for England and Wales 15.3.

			Total	Male	Female
STILL-BIRTHS.	Legitimate)	(Legit.	8	4	4
	)	8	(
	Illegitimate)	(Illegit.	0	0	0

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 home population—0.44

Corresponding rate for England and Wales—0.35.

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female
	219	117	102
Death-rate per 1,000 home population—	12.1.		
For England and Wales	—11.3.		
For 160 Smaller Towns	—11.2.		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

		Male.	Female
Total	...	3	3
Legitimate	...	3	3
Illegitimate	...	0	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE.

	Male.	Female
Total	3	2
Legitimate	3	2
Illegitimate	0	0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 live-births	22.9
England and Wales	27.6
160 Smaller Towns	25.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live-births ...	23.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live-births ...	—

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory System ...	3	3	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	0	1
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
Cancer (All Types)	10	16	26
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	17	34
Coronary Disease, angina	24	14	38
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	12	12	24
Other Circulatory Disease	4	11	15
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	8	4	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	0	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	3	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	0	5
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion ...	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	7	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	0	3
All Other Accidents	4	4	8
Snicide	5	0	5
Homicide and Operations of War ...	0	0	0
	<hr/> 117	<hr/> 102	<hr/> 219

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A Central Public Health Laboratory, controlled by a joint committee, representing the County Council of Durham, the City of Newcastle, and the County Boroughs of Gateshead and Tynemouth, has been provided to assist practitioners in the diagnosis of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases, etc.

The Laboratory is situated in Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Facilities are also provided at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Pathological Department, for urgent bacteriological examinations.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

Table A.

		Bishop Auckland (No. 14 Control) Area *	Bd. Castle Urban and Rural Districts
Ambulance Controls	...	1	Nil
Clerk-telephonists	...	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots	...	5	2
Ambulances	...	15	2
Sitting-case cars	...	Nil	Nil
Driver-Attendants	...	38	4

* Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area and the details given under this head include the details also shown separately for the Urban and Rural Districts. The work shown in Table B below is that undertaken by all vehicles in the Control Area in connection with patients residing in the areas shown.

Table B.

Area.	No. of journeys made	No. of patients carried Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Total	Total Mileage Covered
Barnard Castle U.D. and R.D.	1,006	494	3,467	3,961	62,846

The Ambulance Control for the Area is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed over the 24-hours by a team of 4 clerk-telephonists.

HOME NURSING.

Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. By an agreement concluded by the Durham County Nursing Association, the Durham County Council have delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, which now operates under the general supervision of the County Medical Officer. This arrangement has necessitated the integration and co-ordination by the County Nursing Association of the services formerly provided by individual district nursing associations and the transfer of administration to the County Association.

The arrangements whereby the domiciliary midwife service in certain areas of the County was provided on an agency basis by district nursing associations are continued under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the County Nursing Association acting as the agent.

Both services are now available free of charge.

In this area the following districts are served by resident nurses who provide general, midwifery and maternity nursing services in their districts, viz:—Butterknowle, Cockfield, Evenwood and Ramshaw, Middleton-in-Teesdale, and Staindrop. In the case of Eggleston, services are provided by the North Riding of Yorkshire County Nursing Association.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Child Welfare Centres administered by the Durham County Council are held at Butterknowle, Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, and Witton Park. Temporary School Clinics are provided at Evenwood C.E. School and Butterknowle County School. Weekly sessions, attended by an Acting School Nurse, are held at these clinics.

HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of the hospitals controlled by the South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee. The Marwood

Hospital, situated in this area and formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, has now been taken over as a private residence. There are no other hospitals in the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **WATER.** Supplies from the Tees Valley Water Board were satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity. Complaints were received from the Evenwood area that the water had an earthy taste. This area is mainly supplied by the Durham County Water Board. Two samples examined bacteriologically showed evidence of contamination although this was not of animal origin. On inquiry at the offices of the Board it was ascertained that owing to the summer drought, the level of the reservoir had fallen considerably and some of the water was unfiltered. Moreover, the chlorination apparatus had been out of use for a short period. By the beginning of December, however, these defects were remedied and subsequent samples of water taken in December proved satisfactory.

Bacteriological examinations were made of the following water supplies controlled by the Council:—Stainton, Cockfield, Woodland, Newbiggin and Middleton-in-Teesdale. With the exception of Woodland, the reports received were satisfactory.

STREATLAM AND STAINTON SUPPLY.

The provision by the Surveyor of a surface water drain to the low side of the spring chamber and the renewal of the fencing surrounding the collecting area, appears to have lessened the amount of surface contamination of the spring chambers as shown by satisfactory samples taken in July and in January of the present year.

WOODLAND AND COPLEY.

Owing to the acute shortage of water which occurred in this area during the summer months, it was again found necessary to use the Throstle Bog Spring as a supplementary supply. This supply is almost entirely unprotected against

possible contamination and, in view of a number of unsatisfactory samples taken from this supply, users were advised to boil the water before using for drinking purposes. There has been an acute shortage of water in this area in the last two years due to failure of the supply at the source in the summer months, and I would strongly urge that a properly safeguarded additional supply of water should be found as an alternative to using the Throstle Bog Spring.

UPPER TEESDALE SCHEME.

Owing to the high cost, the Council decided to abandon the scheme as a whole and they requested Messrs. D. Balfour and Sons to prepare a separate scheme for Eggleston, including Folly Top, utilising the several springs on Eggleston Common at an early date. Representations were also made to the Council by the Marwood Parish Council with a view to obtaining a satisfactory water supply to their area. There are a number of farms in this parish and the water supply to these is quite inadequate.

COCKFIELD, HILTON AND WACKERFIELD.

Work on the new scheme of supply for these villages was commenced in April.

BILDERSHAW.

No further progress was made with this scheme during the year and in September the Surveyor reported that springs used as a supply for this area had completely dried up. Drinking water obtained from the Durham County Water Board was taken three days a week by water cart to houses in the area.

WATER SHORTAGES.

In addition to the shortage in the Woodland and Copley supply, shortages also occurred at Cockfield, Newbiggin and Wackerfield. In the case of Middleton-in-Teesdale, supplies were maintained by early attention to any leaking service pipes that could be found. In the case of the Cockfield supply the additional springs at Arngyll were again brought into use by pumping.

Particulars of Dwelling-houses supplied from Public Water Mains.

Parish	Present Estimated Population	Total Number of Houses	Number of House supplied from Public Water Mains	
			(a) Direct to House	(b) By stand-pipe
Evenwood	3091	1196	1169	8
Hamsterley	366	126	79	1
Lynesack & Softley	1826	583	540	6
South Bedburn	255	66	—	—
Etherley	1835	363	313	2
Woodland	351	128	122	3
Cleatlam	108	28	24	—
Gainford	798	284	257	11
Headlam	75	25	23	—
Langton	94	22	19	1
Ingleton	366	119	96	10
Staindrop	1209	386	337	23
Westwick	117	24	19	—
Whorlton	213	68	46	—
Morton Tinnmouth ...	25	6	—	—
Langleydale & Shotton	139	35	11	—
Marwood	299	90	32	—
Raby & Keverstone	224	57	6	13
Bolam	81	30	26	—
Hilton	76	19	—	—
Streatlam & Stainton	315	82	64	—
Cockfield	2059	684	666	9
Eggleson	414	169	—	—
Forest & Frith	384	118	22	3
Middleton-in-Teesdale	1602	574	484	58
Newbiggin	244	83	18	29
Wackerfield	82	28	20	6
Winston	474	128	118	1

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

No date had been fixed by the end of the year for the commencement of this scheme. In his report to the Council on the condition of the existing works the Surveyor stated: "Of the settling tanks, both ends are falling away and one has to be continually patched up. In fact, the works are utterly and completely out of date and the tanks in a shocking, decrepit and dilapidated condition."

INGLETON.

A visit to the site of the present works was made in June by an engineering inspector to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who informed the sub-committee without prejudice that he would recommend that the new scheme go forward. It was suggested that steps be taken to exclude the agricultural waste from four farms from entering into the new works.

COCKFIELD, ESPERLEY, HIGH AND LOW LANDS.

Particulars of this scheme were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and application was made for a grant towards the cost under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

STANTON.

A proposal that the present works should be scrapped and that sewage from the village should be taken into the War Department's Works in Stainton Camp, was received favourably by the War Department with the proviso that any heavy additions at a future date could not be accepted and it was understood that there would be no storm water problem as most of this does not enter the foul drains.

WHORLTON.

Plans for a new disposal works for this village were prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers in 1945. Owing to the difficulty in finding a site to which the sewage can be conveyed by gravity, the plans include the provision of a pumping station from which the sewage would be pumped to a site east of the village where the new works would be constructed.

The present works comprise two settling tanks and filters operated by an automatic tipping apparatus which distributes the tank liquor along metal gutters and from thence over the surface of the filter beds. These works are antiquated though they appear to be in working order at the present time, following renovations carried out by the Surveyor's Works Department.

COPELAND ROW.

Complaints were received during the year of nuisances caused by sewage and sink waste in this area. The present system of drainage is by means of a 6" sewer which runs along the back of the houses and empties itself in an open ditch. This ditch runs into a pond to the north of Copeland

Row and flanking a pithead waste heap. The nuisance is caused by smell and by clogging up of the stream. It is proposed by the Surveyor to relay the sewer to an ejector Pump House, the sewage to be raised to a manhole at a point to the rear of Jubilee Terrace. In addition to the 25 houses in Copeland Row, the scheme would include 9 properties in Jubilee Place, also the property known as the Manor House. These properties are all old though three have been reconditioned. Two single roomed cottages are scheduled for demolition. If this scheme is eventually sanctioned, I recommend that privy conversions should be carried out, since at present only one of the properties included in the scheme has a flush lavatory.

3. PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

During the year ending 31st December, 1952, 71 individual grants were made by the Council for privy conversions. An additional 49 conversions were carried out in a combined scheme in the parish of Evenwood. A further scheme is also being prepared for the conversion of approximately 100 ash closets in the Evenwood area, though some of these may be done privately. When these conversions have been carried out the greater part of the built up areas of Evenwood, Cockfield, Gainford and Middleton-in-Teesdale will be supplied with water closets, though there are still a large number of ash closets in use in the more outlying parts of the district.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The greater part of the area is covered by direct labour. Scavenging is undertaken by Motor Vehicles (Karrier-Bantam). One small area which is not suitable for motor transport is let by contract.

Number of Wagons—11.

Number of full-time employees:

Foreman-Mechanic	...	...	1
Foreman's Assistant	...	...	1
Driver Fillers	...	...	7
Fillers	...	...	3

12

An average of 5 additional casual fillers were employed throughout the year.

Number of Garages—2 (one owned by the Council and one rented).

Scavenging Areas—7.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Number of closets, bins, etc., emptied	265,633
Number of loads of refuse carried to tips	4,383
Number of miles travelled by vehicles	35,489
Number of gallons of petrol used	4,541
Number of pints of oil used	467

The Sanitary Inspectors' report that during the same period the foreman mechanic and his assistant started 162 separate repair jobs and completed 161.

CONTROLLED TIPPING.

During the year the Council discussed the question of controlled tipping of refuse with a view to the introduction in the district of some modified form of this procedure in the near future.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Following is a summary of the work done in the Sanitary Inspectors' Department during the year 1952:—

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

			Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses and Schools:					
Foul Conditions	...	...	—	—	—
Structural Defects	...	...	40	5	35
Overcrowding	...	...	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	1	1	1
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	16	2	15
Drainage	...	...	5	—	5
Water Supplies	...	...	8	6	10
Refuse Accommodation	...	...	13	3	14
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	3	6	5
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	2	—	2
Other nuisances	...	...	2	—	—
Totals			90	22	87

II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.

	Number
Samples of Water taken for analysis	42
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	8
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	—
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for analysis	26
Samples of Food and Drugs found Adulterated	—

III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	...	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	... ..	16
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	... ..	—
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things		—
Convictions for exposures of infected persons or things		—

IV. GENERAL.

Number of ash-pit privies converted into ash-closets	...	—
Number of ash-pit privies converted into water closets	...	—
Number of ash-closets converted into water closets	... ..	122
Total number of water-closets in District	... ..	3,044
Total number of ash-closets in District	... ..	2,550
Total number of ash-pit privies in District	... ..	35
Total number of pail closets in District	... ..	95

Statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors' Department.

A. GENERAL SANITATION.	No. of Visits.
Water Supplies	... .. 150
Drainage	... .. 229
Stables and Piggeries	... .. 1
Offensive Trades	... .. 1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	... .. 1
Factories	... .. 1
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	... .. 1
Refuse Collection	... .. 446
Refusal Disposal	... .. 12
Rats and Mice	... .. 113
Schools	... .. 1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	... .. 102
Sanitary Accommodation	... .. 619
Exits	... .. 34
Dangerous Buildings	... .. 27
Petrol Regulations	... .. 20
Moveable Dwellings	... .. 56
Civil Defence 1

B. HOUSING.

Under Public Health Acts:—

Number of houses inspected	69
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Visits paid to above houses	14
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Under Housing Acts:—

Number of houses inspected	573
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Visits paid to above houses	2
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Verminous Premises	3
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Miscellaneous Housing Visits	50
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Building Licences	9
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C. INFECTIOUS DISEASES	25
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

D. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Visits to Slaughterhouses and general meat inspection visits	16
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Visits to Grocers	8
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Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	19
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Visits to Ice Cream Premises	8
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Food and Drugs Samples	4
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Total	...	2,615
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6. DISINFESTATION.

RODENT CONTROL.

Mr. Kell writes as follows:—

Towards the end of the year, the Council severed their connection with the Joint Rodent Control Committee, and appointed an Operator on the permanent staff. Thereafter it became possible to commence the survey of farms, an aspect of the work which up to that time had been unavoidably neglected. Early treatments proved to be reasonably successful.

The routine work of sewer control and the treatment of refuse tips and sewerage disposal works, has continued.

7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register.	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers pr'cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	12	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	42	48	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..(excluding out-workers' premises)	9	21	—	Nil
Total	58	81	3	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—
Total	1	1

Number of Out-workers—2 (making, etc., wearing apparel).

SMOKE ABATEMENT. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 101-106.

Complaints were received of heavy deposits of grit occurring in or near houses situated near Messrs. Sadler and Co.'s Coke Ovens, Evenwood. These deposits occur mainly when the wind is from an easterly direction and since the prevailing wind is from the south-west, the alleged nuisance arising therefrom is not a continuous one. It appears that the nuisance occurs when the coke oven boilers are fired with solid fuel (either coal or coke breeze) and during the summer months when coke oven gas was used instead of solid fuel, the nuisance appeared to be abated. Discussions took place with the management of the works who undertook to carry out certain structural alterations comprising shortening of the boiler chimney to reduce draught, and the construction of a damper in the main flue to prevent unconsumed grit particles from passing up the chimney. Unfortunately, these measures did not seem to be effective and later in the year the management notified the Council that they proposed carrying out further measures with a view to remedying the matter.

HOUSING.

During the year 54 houses were completed and occupied. There is now no official allocation of houses to Local Authorities. They are permitted to build as many as desired subject to the quantities of building material available.

Distribution of Houses built and occupied during the year.

Parish.	Bungalows.	2-Bed type.	3-Bed type	Total
Bolam ...	0	2	1	3
Cockfield ...	2	2	10	14
Etherley ...	0	0	1	1
Evenwood ...	4	0	0	4
Gainford ...	0	9	14	23
Stainton ...	0	3	4	7
Woodland ...	0	0	2	2
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 54

Statement of Housing Situation at end of 1952.

Parish.	Houses completed & occupied by 31-12-52.		In course of construction or completed but not occupied.
Bolam	3	—
Cockfield	78	—
Evenwood	74	30
Etherley	17	29
Gainford	47	3
Middleton	38	—
Staindrop	36	40
Streatlam and Stainton	...	7	3
Woodland	8	—
Whorlton	4	—
Butterknowle	4	—
Ingleton	22	—
Winston	6	—
Copley	8	—
Hamsterley	6	—
	Totals ...	<hr/> 358	<hr/> 105

In addition to the above, six bungalows were completed and occupied, two at Cockfield and four at Evenwood.

Building by Private Enterprise.

During the year six houses were built and occupied in the area and by the end of the year, eight were in course of erection.

Building by the War Department.

During the year 126 Wates concrete non-traditional houses were under construction in Stainton Military Camp and 76 were completed by the end of the year. They are intended for married troops of non-commissioned rank. 28 Huts have been reconstructed. In addition 5 barrack wardens' cottages have been built, one in each of the five camps situated in the rural district..

Moveable Dwellings. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269.

A total of 15 movable dwellings were licensed by the Local Authority by the end of the year.

It is probable that there is a larger number of caravans and movable dwellings in the area and the Sanitary Inspectors are making a survey in order to ascertain the number that have not already been licensed. I must stress the importance of maintaining suitable standards in regard to the licensing of these structures. They can be not only an eyesore and a nuisance to people living in the neighbourhood, but also a danger to the health of the occupants themselves if there are not adequate sanitary arrangements provided.

Housing Act, 1936.

Statement of Properties in Confirmed Clearance Orders at 31st December, 1952.

No. of Order.	Date of Order.	Situation of Property.	No. of houses in Order.	No. Demolished.	No. empty.	No. occupied
1.	18/5/38.	Jubilee Terr, Evenwood ...	2	Nil	Nil	2
2a.	18/5/38.	Gordon Gill, Ramshaw, Even'd	4	4	4	Nil
3.	18/5/38.	Hamsterley ...	2	(partly) Nil	2	Nil
5.	18/4/39.	Manor Street, Evenwood ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
6.	18/4/39.	Toft Hill ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
7.	18/4/39.	Magdalene Place, Evenwood ...	2	Nil	2	Nil
8.	18/5/38.	Bildershaw Bk., W. Auckland	2	Nil	1	1
10.	18/4/39.	Quarry Houses, Toft Hill ...	2	Nil	2	Nil
11.	18/4/39.	Lane Head, Copley ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
13.	18/4/39.	Butwell Terrace, Hamsterley	4	3	Nil	1
14.	18/4/39.	Crake Scarr, Woodland ...	3	Nil	2	1
15.	18/4/39.	Vanes Hartley Cottages, Cockfield ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
16.	18/4/39.	Garforth Pond, Marwood, Barnard Castle ...	3	Nil	3	Nil
17.	18/4/39.	Queens Head Wynd, Staindrop	2	Nil	Nil	2
18.	18/4/39.	Brookside, Staindrop ...	6	Nil	Nil	6
19.	19/4/39.	Brown's Buildings, Ingleton ...	4	Nil	2	2

Statement of Properties Subject to Demolition Orders at 31/12/52.

In all, 49 houses have been subject to Demolition Orders and of these 10 have been demolished, 25 are still standing but unoccupied, and the remaining 14 are occupied under licence.

The licensed properties are situated as follows:—

3, Hunters Well, High Etherley.

150, Toft Hill.

Beckside, Staindrop (owner J. Sams).

Beckside, Staindrop.

1 and 3, Belts Gill, Etherley.

2, 7 and 26, The Oaks, Evenwood.

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Sandhole, Evenwood.

I must draw the Council's attention to the fact that there are still 25 houses under Demolition Orders which are unoccupied and which have not yet been demolished.

Temporary Buildings.

There was one family remaining in occupation of a timber hut situated in Coach Road Wood Camp, Staindrop, at the end of the year.

Applications for Council Houses.

There are now 488 live applications for Council houses outstanding, compared with 412 at the end of the previous year and 401 at the end of 1950. These figures indicate an ever increasing demand for new houses and at the present rate of building construction it appears that this demand will continue indefinitely. There is no doubt there are still many families living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions who urgently need rehousing.

I append below the figures for housing applications in some of the larger parishes:—

Parish.	No. of applications at 31/12/51.			No. of applications at 31/12/52.	
Cockfield	81	...	101
Etherley	61	...	47
Evenwood	81	...	83
Gainford	32	...	46
Butterknowle	19	...	16
Middleton and Newbiggin	31	...	32
Staindrop	43	...	82
Woodland	17	...	18

Housing Act, 1949. Section 20-25.

Improvement grants to the value of £1,532 10s. 0d. were awarded by the Council in regard to 7 properties situated within the Rural District. In the case of one of these, the proposal is to convert the property into two houses.

8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

There are at the present time seven Dealers registered with the Council under the Regulations. In addition five Supplementary licences permitting the special designation "Pasteurised" have been granted.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies only. Samples are submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, or to the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

No samples of milk were taken during the year by the Sanitary Department for bacteriological or biological examination.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1947. SECTION 20. BRUCELLA ABORTUS.

Notices were withdrawn in March and April respectively in the two cases where action was taken under the above regulations in the previous year.

ICE CREAM. (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947.

There were four retail-manufacturers and 43 retailers registered in the district at the end of the year.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Six samples of ice cream were sent for testing. Two were placed in provisional grade I. and four in provisional grade II.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. SECTION 13.

BUTCHERS. MAKING-UP ROOMS.

In certain cases reported in the previous year where butchers were not using separate rooms for the manufacture of potted meats, sausage, etc., the improvements recommended by the Sanitary Inspectors were carried out during the present year.

Sanitary improvements recommended by the Sanitary Inspectors in regard to a Fried Fish Shop in Cockfield were also carried out during the year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

In August a small outbreak of food poisoning occurred in the Toft Hill area. A family comprising father, mother and two children, a girl aged 3 years and a boy aged 1½ years, were all taken ill with vomiting and diarrhoea, gastric pain and cramp in the legs, soon after partaking of a meal which included a tin of Polish Chopped Pork. A fifth person, a woman friend of the family who had also shared the meal, was taken ill with similar symptoms. The tin was one of a consignment of 12 stocked by a local retailer. Five tins had been purchased by the same family, and four had already been consumed without ill effects. The remaining seven tins which were held in stock by the retailer, were seized and two of these were sent for bacteriological examination. Unfortunately, the food remaining from the suspected tin had been previously destroyed by the purchasers. Bacteriological examinations were also made of the patients themselves. All the results were negative, but in view of the acute symptoms occurring in all who partook of the tin of chopped pork meat, it was assumed that this was the cause of the illness though the type of the infection was not ascertained.

SLAUGHTERING.

There is a centralised Slaughter House, situated in Barnard Castle and serving three districts, viz., Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts, and Startforth Rural District.

Meat inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector employed by the Barnard Castle Urban District Council, holiday and sickness duty being undertaken by the two Sanitary Inspectors of the Barnard Castle Rural District Council. All three officers hold the Meat and Food Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

I append a summary of the work carried out by the Meat Inspector during the year:—

Public Health Meat Regulations.

The following table shows the animals killed, inspected and found unfit for human consumption at the Slaughterhouse during the year ending 31st December, 1952:—

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs		
	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	Cott
Number Killed	978	70	150	109	—	151	4504	251	456	121	16
Number Inspected	978	70	150	109	—	151	4451	250	456	121	12
All diseases except Tuberculosis											
Whole carcasses condemned	1	14	1	33	—	64	2	56	—	14	—
Part of Carcase or organ condemned	218	31	40	49	—	5	44	61	12	37	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	22.3	64.3	27.3	75.2	—	45.7	1.0	46.8	2.6	42.1	—
Tuberculosis only											
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	—	11	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Part of carcase or organ condemned	46	3	13	9	—	—	—	—	6	1	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.8	7.1	8.7	18.3	—	—	—	—	1.5	2.5	—

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Compared with the previous year there was a marked increase in the total number of children under 15 who received a primary course of immunisation during the year (224 in 1951) though there was a slight decrease in the number aged 5-14 years.

I am satisfied that the response to immunisation is still satisfactory though the fact that diphtheria is now a comparatively rare disease renders it necessary to frequently remind parents of the importance of having their children protected. Facilities continue to be provided at the County Welfare Clinics for children under 5 years, and for children of any age by private practitioners.

Immunisations were also carried out in the early part of the year at Butterknowle County School by arrangement with the County Education Authority. At this school 4 children were given a full course of two inoculations and 11 children were given re-inforcing doses.

	Age at date of Final Injection.		Total Under
	0-4 years.	5-14 years.	15
Number of Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the authority's area in the 12 months ending 31st December, 1952	194	63	257
Number given reinforcing injection during year	...	...	146

Estimated Percentage of Mid-1951 Child Population in the Rural District who have been Immunised up to 31st Dec., 1952.

Under 5 years.	5-15 years.
%	%
38	69

The estimated figure of the mid-1952 child population in the Rural District could not be supplied by the Registrar-General.

There were again no cases of diphtheria notified in the district and it is satisfactory to note that this is the fourth consecutive year in which diphtheria has been absent. (In 1941, 21 cases were notified and in 1942, 17 cases.)

It will be of interest to the Council to note that in the country generally, in the year 1944 there were 934 deaths from diphtheria and 23,199 corrected notifications of the disease

while in 1951 there were only 33 deaths and 664 corrected notifications. These are very significant figures.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever (37 compared with 32 in 1951). Thirteen cases were isolated at home and in each of these a visit was paid to the home to ensure that adequate isolation was maintained. The notification rate was 2.04 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 1.53 for England and Wales.

There was an increase in the incidence of measles, the notification rate being 12.01 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 7.39 for the previous year and a rate of 8.86 for England and Wales. Measles is a highly infectious disease and owing to the fact that the rash does not appear until the fourth day the infection is spread, particularly in schools, before the disease has been diagnosed.

There was a fall in the incidence of whooping cough (24 cases compared with 65 in 1951). The notification rate for whooping cough was 1.32 compared with a rate of 2.61 for England and Wales.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

Three cases were notified in the month of October. One of these was a young man aged 19 years living in Etherley. The symptoms and signs in this case were somewhat obscure but I am glad to say that the infection was a mild one and there was no resulting disability. Both of the two remaining cases were, however, severe. One of these was a young man aged 18 living at Eggleston; the other, a woman aged 35, wife of a farmer, living in the Staindrop district. It is curious that in both these cases the onset of symptoms was on the same day (3rd October), but there was no evidence to indicate a common source of infection.

ENTERIC FEVER (PARATYPHOID).

A notification of a case of paratyphoid fever was received in July. The case was a girl aged 11 years who was staying in Eggleston. She had been a pupil in a convent school in Rutland where several cases of this disease had occurred and there was evidence that the water supply at the school was involved. This child, however, showed no evidence of illness whatever and was undoubtedly a healthy "carrier." Her younger sister who also attended the school had been a "carrier" for a time. The child was kept under careful observation during her stay in Eggleston and though she remained a positive excreter for some time, the condition cleared up before she had left the district.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

		Admitted to Hospital.	Diagnosis Not confirmed.	Total Cases
Scarlet Fever	... 38	25	1	37
Diphtheria	... —	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 1	—	—	1
Erysipelas	... 3	—	—	3
Pneumonia	... 15	—	—	15
Ophthalmia	... —	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	... 3	3	—	3
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic)	... —	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	... 1	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infections	... 1	1	1	—
Measles	... 218	—	—	218
Whooping Cough	... 24	1	—	24
Food Poisoning	... 6	—	1	5

Analysis of the Total Cases (confirmed) in age groups.

	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Age un- known
Scarlet Fever	0	0	2	20	12	2	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	6	5	9	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	5	45	42	114	10	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	2	1	1	1	3	3	4	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
25	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
55	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	2	2	0	3	3	1	0

